Washington, DC - Working to improve air quality and commuting in local communities, Congresswoman Linda Sánchez (CA-39) announced that she has secured \$250,000 for the South Gate Clean Air Bus Program. Sánchez got the project included in the Omnibus Appropriations bill (H.R. 4818), which passed the U.S. House of Representatives on November 20th by a vote of 344-to-51, and is expected to be signed into law by President Bush in the near future.

"In Southern California, commuting and air pollution affect the daily lives of all residents. This funding will enable South Gate to begin converting its older gasoline-powered city buses to newer, larger clean-burning buses. This is a positive step towards improving local air quality, while at the same time making commuting for residents more comfortable," said Congresswoman Linda Sánchez.

Presently, South Gate leases 11 gasoline-fueled passenger vans, each seating approximately 12 people, for the city's bus system. The federal funds secured by Congresswoman Sánchez will allow the city to purchase two new and larger buses that use alternative clean-air fuels. The new buses will improve transportation services for South Gate residents, improve air quality in the city, and reduce South Gate's transportation costs by owning, not leasing, the city's buses

"Especially for residents without access to vehicles, our local bus system provides a vital link to businesses and community services throughout the region. These funds will be of great benefit to the regional transportation network and especially to the hard working people of California's 39th District who use this bus system on a daily basis," said Congresswoman Linda Sánchez.